



Lebby

FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1956



FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1956.

Chairman - Mr. Councillor E. Duke, J.P.

Vice Chairman - Mr. Councillor J.R. Rimmer, M.B.E., J.P.

Chairman of Health and Highways Committee -

Mr. Councillor J.R. Rimmer, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor Mrs. P.H. Beeston, B.A., J.P.

Mr. Councillor R. Cairns.

Mr. Councillor F.V. Denton, O.B.E., T.D., F.C.A.

Mr. Councillor J.J.W. Hawkins, T.D.

Mr. Councillor G. Kershaw.

Councillor Mrs. M.A. Neep.

Mr. Councillor C.J. O'Neill.

Mr. Councillor E. Pearce.

Mr. Councillor H.F. Phillips.

Mr. Councillor S.J.E. Sloan, LL.B.

Medical Officer of Health (Part Time). -

M.G. Garry, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.M.

Public Health Inspector -

N. Benson, D.P.A. (L'pool).

FORMBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1st August, 1957.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Health and Highways Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is again my privilege to present the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions of Formby for 1956.

As a residential area Formby has much to commend it. Not only is it attractively situated and within easy access to Liverpool and Southport, but it also has a good record of public health.

The birth rate for the year shows an upward trend - 17.2 per 1,000 population, which is above the National rate of 15.7.

The death rate was 11.9 per 1,000 population as against 9.6 for last year. No maternal deaths were recorded. There was an increase in the incidence of measles, which reached a peak in July, but the number of whooping cough cases declined. There were no cases of diphtheria or food poisoning notified. Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis reported show an encouraging reduction to the low figure of 4. This gives a rate of .39 per 1,000 population as against the National rate of .71 per 1,000.

The infant mortality rate of 7 per 1,000 live births is the lowest for 10 years and is considerably below the National rate of 23.8 per 1,000 live births.

The standard of housing in the district is good; 120 new houses were completed during the year. Most of the remaining ex R.A.F. huts at Broad Lane and four other sub-standard houses have been demolished.

A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for the reconstruction of the sewage disposal works.

Having regard to the fact that over 600 houses are not yet connected to a main sewer, in my opinion the Council should now give serious consideration to the provision of main drainage for the unsewered parts of the district.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations have involved alterations in some food premises, and greater attention has been paid to the hygienic preparation and handling of foods in shops, cafes and canteens. Regulations by themselves can never achieve the reduction in food-borne disease that everyone hopes to see without the continued co-operation of food handlers in the shops and in the home.

My thanks are again due to Members of the Health and Highways Committee for their interest and support, and to Members of the staff for their willing assistance at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

M. G. GARRY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Area of District -

L.W. Mark 7,308 acres.
H.W. Mark 5,613 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate, mid 1956) - 10,340.

Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1956 - 3,038.

Rateable Value - £132,587.

Sum represented by a penny rate - £525.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

Causes of Death in the Formby Urban District
during 1956.

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system.	1	1	2
2. Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria.	-	-	-
5. Whooping cough.	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.	-	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.	-	-	-
8. Measles.	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-	-
10. Cancer of the stomach.	1	-	1
11. Cancer of the lungs.	1	-	1
12. Cancer of the breast.	-	2	2
13. Cancer of the uterus.	-	-	-
14. Cancer of other sites.	3	2	5
15. Leukaemia.	-	1	1
16. Diabetes.	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system.	5	22	27
18. Heart Disease.	20	5	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1	2
20. Other heart disease.	11	5	16
21. Other circulatory disease.	3	4	7
22. Influenza.	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.	7	3	10
24. Bronchitis.	4	1	5
25. Other respiratory diseases.	-	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	-	-	-
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	-	-
28. Nephritis.	1	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3	3	6
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
34. All other accidents.	1	2	3
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide.	-	-	-
Total	65	56	121

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals within the Urban District. The Liverpool Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the hospital service within Health Division No.7, of which Formby forms part. Patients are moved to any of the hospitals in the area, i.e., Liverpool, Southport or Ormskirk.

Infectious Disease.

Cases of infectious disease, when necessary, are admitted to the City Hospital, Fazackerley, or to New Hall Hospital, Scarisbrick.

Tuberculosis.

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board. The Local Health Authorities have important duties in relation to prevention, supervision of contacts and after care.

Ambulance Facilities.

The ambulance service, a 24 hour service, is provided by the Lancashire County Council. Stations within the division are at Formby, Crosby, Maghull and Ormskirk.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The Child Welfare and Minor Ailments Clinic is provided by the County and held at "Roselands," Cross Green, every Tuesday. Immunisation is carried out every fourth Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Midwifery Service.

There are two midwives living in the district, employed by the Lancashire County Council to ensure that every mother may have the advice and attention of a skilled midwife when she is confined at home.

Home Nursing Service.

The services of a district nurse are available to attend to the sick in their own homes. This service is arranged by a note from the family doctor or hospital. There are two district nurses resident in the area.

Home Help Service.

The Home Help service is provided for helping with household duties in cases of confinement, sickness, infirmity or other difficulties.

Nursing Equipment.

Persons being nursed at home and who are in need of nursing equipment may obtain this on loan, by application to the Divisional Health Office or the district nurse attending the case.

Care of the Aged.

The County Council provides accommodation, either in their own Institutions or in suitable voluntary homes.

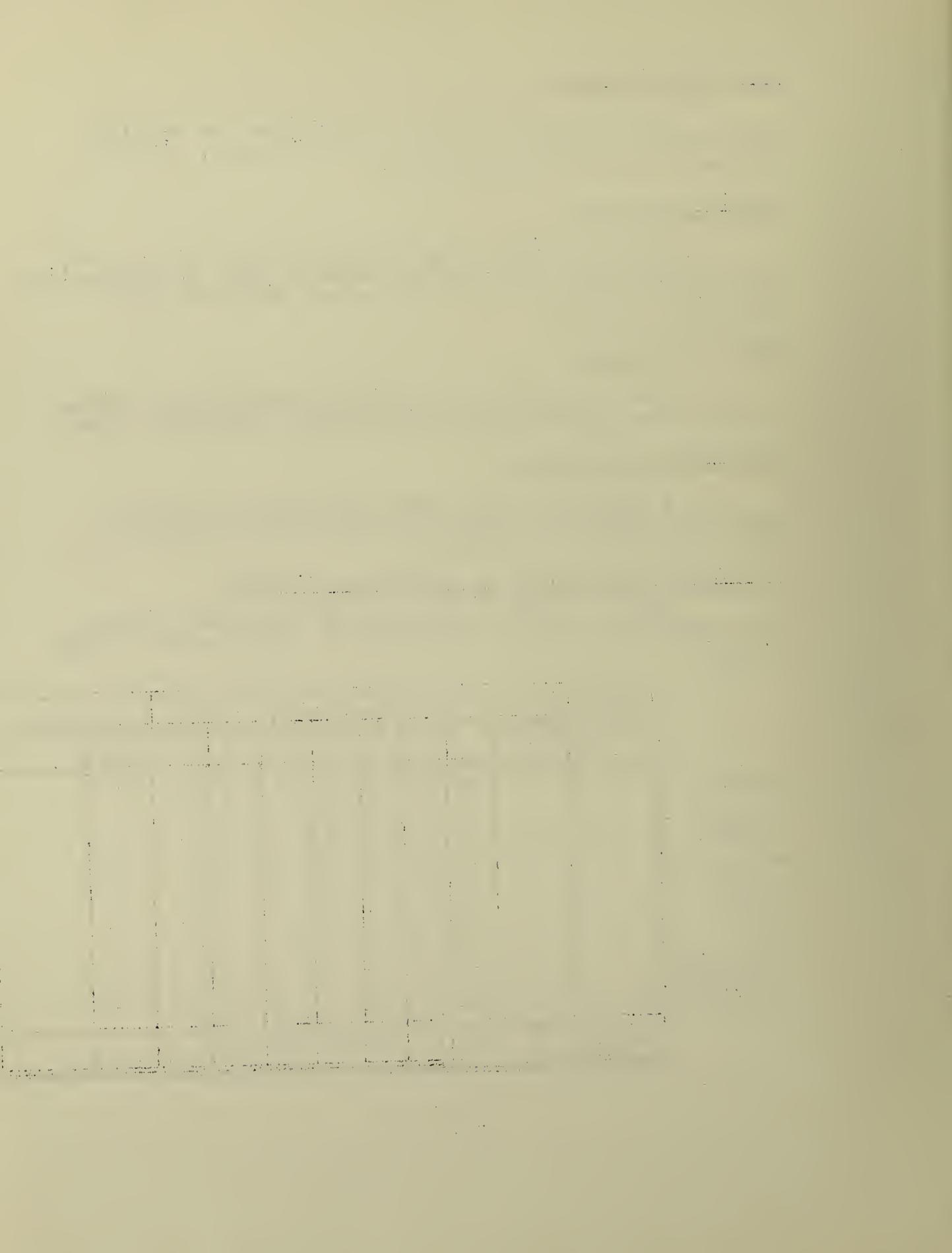
Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens and samples of food or water for examination are sent to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Liverpool.

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Disease.

During the year 125 cases of infectious disease were notified, these are shown in the tables below, in age groups.

	Total Cases	Age Periods - Years									Deaths
		Under 1	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 & over	
Measles	94	-	5	5	15	59	7	3	-	-	
Whooping Cough	18	4	1	2	5	6	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Tuberculosis	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	2
	125	4	6	7	22	66	12	4	3	1	2



Disinfection.

When required, disinfection of bedding, clothing and books is carried out in a Sparkhall Disinfector of 80 cubic feet capacity at the Council Depot. The method of disinfection used in this apparatus is the vapourisation of a fluid claimed by the makers to have a far greater Rideal-Walker co-efficiency value than formalin. The chamber is later cleared of the gas by an extractor fan.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply - Water is supplied to the district by the Southport and District Water Board, and is obtained from deep wells sunk in the new red sandstone formation. The mains supplying Formby vary in size from 3" to 14" internal diameter. The water supplied, although hard in character, is of the highest standard of organic and bacterial purity. Nine samples of water were taken in the district and submitted for bacteriological examination. All were reported as "Highly Satisfactory."

Other Water Supplies.

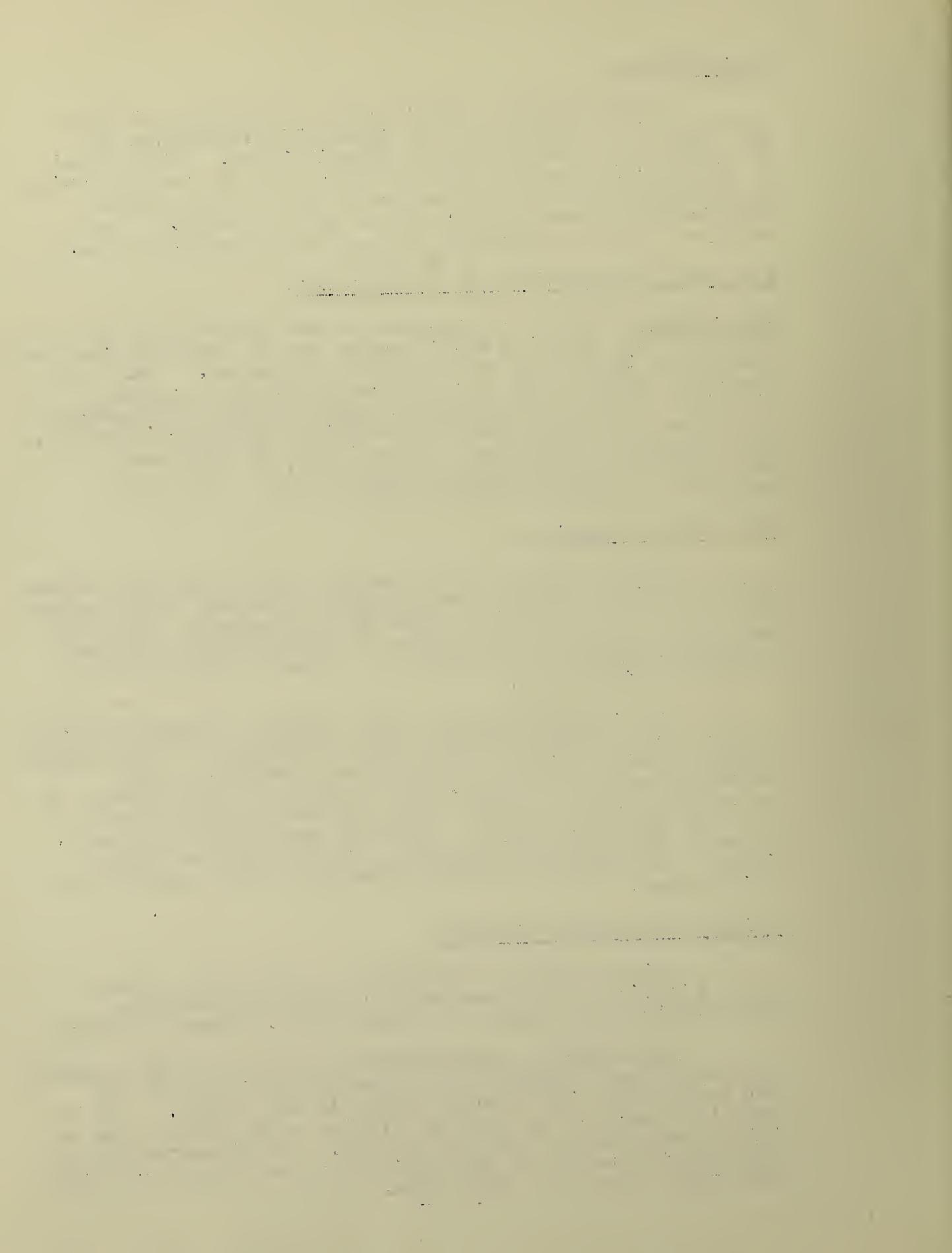
There are seventeen houses, a Cafe and four holiday chalets, still without a water supply from the public mains. These are in the outlying parts of the district. Nineteen samples of water were taken from the wells and submitted for bacteriological examination. Seven of these were not entirely satisfactory.

The interpretation of the results of bacteriological examination in terms of the hygienic quality of water demands careful consideration of all relevant factors. The continued presence of Bact. Coli and Faecal Streptococci in one water supply to four houses demanded formal action. A notice was served on the owners to reconstruct the well. The well shaft was relined, and a close cover and pump fitted. Subsequent sampling showed the water supply to be satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Main drainage is provided for 80% of the houses in the district. The sewers discharge by gravitation into settling tanks with an outfall into the River estuary.

Plans for the reconstruction of the sewage disposal works have been submitted for approval but it now seems that the scheme will be constructed in two stages. It is hoped that work on the pumping station - the first stage - will be commenced in the near future. Construction of the sedimentation tanks, sludge drying beds and ancillary works would take place at a later date.



ANALYST'S REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF WATER
TAKEN IN THE DISTRICT

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance - Bright with a few mineral particles.

Turbidity - Less than 3

Colour - Nil

Odour - Nil

pH - 7.3.

Free Carbon Dioxide - 18

Electric Conductivity - 610

Total Solids, dried at 180°C. - 430

Chlorine as Chlorides - ---

Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate - 245

Hardness: Total - 325 Carbonate - 245 Non-Carbonate - 80

Nitrate Nitrogen 0.0. Nitrite Nitrogen - Absent

Ammoniacal Nitrogen - 0.031 Oxygen absorbed - 0.60

Albuminoid Nitrogen - 0.039 Residual Chlorine - Absent

Metals - Absent

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

	<u>1 day at 37°C</u>	<u>2 days at 37°C</u>	<u>3 days at 20°C.</u>
<u>Number of Colonies</u>			
<u>developing on Agar</u>	<u>0 per ml.</u>	<u>0 per ml.</u>	<u>0 per ml.</u>
<u>Present in</u>	<u>Absent from</u>	<u>Probable No.</u>	
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	-- ml.	100 ml.	-
Bact.coli.(Type 1)	-- ml.	100 ml.	-
Cl.welchii Reaction	-- ml.	100 ml.	-

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals.

The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive.

Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Number of houses with pail closets.	190
Number of houses with W.C.'s draining to cesspools or septic tanks.	420
Number of houses with W.C.'s on main drainage.	2,428

Conversions.

Number of premises where middens or ashpits have been abolished and dustbins supplied.	13
Number of premises where pail closets have been converted to water closets.	10

Refuse Removal and Disposal.

The removal of house refuse is carried out under the direction of the Surveyor. A Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft Tipping vehicle of 16 yards capacity is operated by a team of six men and a driver.

Dustbins and pail closets are emptied weekly.

Disposal of refuse is by tipping on low lying land at North Moss Lane.

Shops Act, 1950.

The routine inspection of shops under the above Act was continued during the year, 112 visits being made. There are 78 shops on the register. Defects discovered during inspection were remedied by informal notice.

Factories Act, 1937.

Routine visits were made to the 34 premises on the register; 43 inspections were made and it was only necessary to serve two notices for contraventions.

Camping Sites - Public Health Act, 1936. Section 269.

Two main sites, having an average of 100 moveable dwellings were registered for camping during the summer period. The larger site on the south side of Lifeboat Road is provided with a main water supply. Water for the smaller site on the north side of Victoria Road is obtained from a well. As a precautionary measure the water from this well is filtered for drinking purposes.

Housing

During the period under review a total of 120 new houses were erected during the year. The Council was responsible for the erection of 36 houses, and 84 houses were built by private builders. A further 20 houses and 16 flats are in course of erection by the Council to complete the Royal Hotel Site. On the newly acquired Foster Road Site 14 houses and 4 bungalows will be erected.

The general standard of housing in the district is high and no especial difficulties were experienced in getting essential repairs carried out.

Twenty huts at Broad Lane - a former R.A.F. Site - have been demolished and the occupiers re-housed. Four other houses were demolished as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Housing Act, 1949 - Improvement Grants.

Seven applications for grants were received and approved and the necessary work of improvement was carried out. Six of these applications were from owner-occupiers.

Legal Proceedings.

It was necessary in one instance to institute legal proceedings for the abatement of nuisances which had not been done after the service of a Statutory Notice.

After several adjournments to give the owner further time to carry out the necessary repairs, the Court then made an "Order" with £5.5.0d. costs. All the necessary repairs were later carried out.

Swimming Baths.

There are no public baths in the district but there is one open air swimming bath attached to a large private school. This is used by a considerable number of boys during the season. Swimming bath water is exposed to a considerable amount of contamination from the bathers and often inadvertently becomes drinking water. It should, therefore, as nearly as possible reach the standard of drinking water. This was achieved by the method of continuous circulation, filtration and chlorination, together with periodic complete water change. Samples taken and submitted for bacteriological examination were all found to be satisfactory.

Schools.

The following is a list of the main schools in the district :-

<u>School.</u>	<u>Type.</u>	<u>Number of children attending.</u>
Formby Secondary Modern	Lancs C.C.	169
St. Luke's C. of E.	(Controlled)	238
St. Peter's C. of E.	(Grant aided)	223
Holy Trinity C. of E.	-do-	182
Our Lady's R.C.	-do-	279
Holmwood School.	Private	142
Bishops Court R.C.	Private	(87 boarders) 105
St. Peter's College R.C.	Private	(63 boarders) 120 (all boarders).

In addition there are six other smaller Private schools and two Home Office Approved schools.

The schools in the district were inspected and the sanitary fittings examined. Minor defects discovered were remedied. The sanitary arrangements at one of the smaller Private schools were found to be inadequate for the number of children attending.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

A survey of all premises where food is prepared or sold was made under the new Food Hygiene Regulations, which came into force on the 1st January, 1956. In some cases alterations and additions had to be made to comply with the regulations. Adequate protection of open displayed foods in shops is not yet complete, but most shopkeepers are co-operating in this direction. Attention was given to temporary catering arrangements for open air shows, displays, etc. Often meals, snacks and drinks are prepared and served from tents, vans or stalls, to large numbers of people. Whilst the quality of the food is generally good, the washing arrangements for crockery, glasses and utensils are in some cases primitive. Many caterers are now taking advantage of the hygienic mobile kitchen units available and are also using the new bactericidal detergents in the washing-up water.

Milk.

All milk sold within the district is either pasteurised, sterilised or tuberculin tested, and can therefore be regarded as "safe."

There are ten dairy farms producing milk, but some of this goes out of the district to the large retailers for heat treatment. Dairy farms are registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who are also responsible for the inspection of the premises and cattle.

Two other dairies were registered by the local authority for the sale of milk.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949/54.

The following licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milks :-

Licences.

Dealers. Supplementary.

Tuberculin Tested	3	2
Pasteurised	8	1
Sterilised	3	1

Milk Sampling.

The following details are given of milk samples submitted for bacteriological examination :-

Number of Samples.	Grade of Milk.	Test.	No. Satisfactory.	No. Unsatisfactory.
6	Raw	T.B.	6	-
6	Raw	Methylene Blue.	5	1
6	Pasteurised	-do-	6	-
6	Pasteurised	Phosphatese Test.	6	-
2	Sterilised	Turbidity Test.	2	-

Ice Cream.

The sale of this commodity continues on an increasing scale. Twenty-four premises are registered for the sale of ice cream. This is mostly wrapped and produced by manufacturers outside the district. The only manufacturer of ice cream in the district uses a "complete cold mix" which requires no addition except water.

Seventeen samples of ice cream were taken and submitted for examination - the following results were reported -

No. of Samples.	Methylene Blue Test. Period of Reduction.	Grade.
12	Not before 4 hours	1
4	3 to 4 hours	2
1	1 hour	3
-	-	4

The standard adopted is that recommended by the Ministry of Health, i.e. "ice cream which consistently fails to reach grades one and two indicates defects of manufacture or handling."

One sample, therefore, failed to reach the standard required and upon investigation, this was found to be due to a breakdown of the refrigerator.

Adulteration of Food.

During the year 58 samples of food were purchased and submitted for analysis by the Lancashire County Council. Details are given in the following table :-

Articles of Food.	No. Examined.	No. Adulterated.	Action Taken.
Cream (Tinned)	1	-	
Barley	2	1	Packers communicated with.
Coffee	2	-	
Cornflour	4	-	
Blancmange Powder	2	-	
Sugar	1	-	
Pepper (White)	1	-	
Flour	1	-	
Oatmeal	3	-	
Sago	1	-	
Tea	6	-	
Christmas Pudding	1	-	
Semolina	1	-	
Sweets	2	-	
Milk	28	-	
Milk (Channel Islands)	5	1	Vendor cautioned 3.7% deficient in fat.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employs one full time rodent operator, who made 2,443 visits during the year. In addition to routine work a complete house-to-house inspection was commenced for the discovery of rat infestation. Private dwellings are treated free, and the actual cost of treatment is charged for business premises.

Test baiting of the foul sewers was carried out but no takes were recorded. The fact that the sewers are completely free from rat infestation may be due in some respect to surcharging of the sewers, which occurs when heavy rainfall coincides with high tides.

Re-infestation of premises which have been treated is becoming rare, and there is every indication that infestation in the district is steadily decreasing.

